27th March 1929]

III

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S PROROGATION ADDRESS.

His Excellency the Governor on arrival at the Council Chamber addressed the Council as follows :— 5-15 p.m.

" Mr. President and Members of the Legislative Council : As I stand here in this Council Chamber for the last time, my thoughts go back to an August morning $4\frac{1}{2}$ years ago when I first stood here and as Governor opened the session of the Council then in existence. Those have been four eventful years, Gentlemen, and though there may have been disappointments, we have some cause for satisfaction also. In those days the finances of the Presidency were straitened and to add to our troubles certain districts had been visited by disastrous floods. Since then, I am glad to say, agricultural conditions have been generally more favourable and there has been a very great improvement in our finances.

" In 1923–24, the total revenue of the Madras Presidency was 1,677 lakhs and the expenditure excluding the Provincial contribution of 348 lakhs was 1,322 lakhs respectively. The estimated revenue and expenditure for 1929–30 are 1,792 lakhs and 1,808 lakhs. The main feature of the intervening period is the reduction in the Provincial contribution of 348 lakhs. The reduction began in 1925–26 when 126 lakhs were remitted and was completed in 1927–28 when the whole 348 lakhs were remitted. This has resulted in an increase in the effective income of the Presidency from 1,329 lakhs in 1923–24 to an estimated amount of 1,792 lakhs in 1929–30. This large increase in effective revenue has permitted of a considerable increase in expenditure from 1,322 lakhs to 1,808 lakhs an increase of no less than 486 lakhs or very nearly 37 per cent of the income in 1923–24. This increased expenditure has been mainly on the nation-building departments, particularly, Education with a 114 lakhs increase, Medical and Public Health 92 lakhs, Irrigation 46 lakhs, Agriculture and Industries 24 lakhs and Grants-in-aid to local bodies for roads and bridges 27 lakhs.

" It is a matter for satisfaction that the last agricultural season has again, generally speaking, proved favourable. Apart from some anxiety in September in respect of one or two districts the south-west monsoon was fair, while the north-east monsoon gave good rains throughout the Presidency. In October floods caused some loss of life and property and considerable damage to communications in Vizagapatam and East Godavari, but prompt steps were taken to assist those affected and to restore communications. The crops of the present harvest have been good except in one or two limited and isolated tracts. These favourable conditions are reflected in the budget in connexion with which the Legislative Council has just completed its labours. If anticipations are realized, revenue receipts for the current year will for the first time approximate to the 18 crores limit and, if all goes well in the coming fasli, it is hoped that that position will be maintained in 1929–30. As a result it has been possible not only to provide considerable sums for the ordinary administrative requirements and expansion of different departments but also to embark upon a number of reorganization schemes of great importance. The Madras Presidency is now mistress in her own financial house and the provincial revenues in their entirety are at her disposal. If however the revenue at our disposal has increased, so has our expenditure : and although it has been possible to do something to meet immediate and

[His Excellency the Governor] [27th March 1929

most urgent requirements, there is still a long road to be travelled before we can claim to be discharging adequately even the elementary functions of a modern State much less satisfy those who permit no financial or practical considerations to circumscribe their theoretical conception of the legitimate sphere of the State's activities.

"The proceedings of this Council and of the previous one which was dissolved in 1926 have not been barren of legislation, and, in particular, Acts constituting two new universities, viz., the Andhra and Annamalai Universities, have been passed. There are still many administrative difficulties which hamper the progress of the former of these two universities, but it is my fervent hope that the time is not far distant when that university will take its proper place in the field of education in this Presidency. The Annamalai University Act has only recently been passed, but my Government are making every effort to bring the University into proper working order at the earliest possible date. Also amongst the most important of the measures passed was the Malabar Tenancy Bill. It will, I hope, be possible to solve all the difficulties to which that measure has given rise and thereby satisfy all the many conflicting interests concerned.

"My Government have, on their part, to record progress in many branches of administration, health propaganda, medical relief, education, sanitation, improvement in communications and expansion in the activities of the agricultural and veterinary departments. Progress has been possible owing to the improvement in our financial position and has been largely due to the energy and whole-hearted enthusiasm of the heads of the various departments and the various officers under them, assisted, I should not omit to say, by the co-operation of many public-spirited gentlemen not only in this House but outside also. We have had in recent years a Royal Commission on Agriculture in India and, so far as our Presidency in particular is concerned, a committee to enquire into the progress of the co-operative movement, a committee to examine the work of the Department of Fisheries and a conference to examine the working of the Textile Section of the Department of Industries. The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture are engaging the attention not only of the Government of India but of my Government also and we hope to give effect to part of the recommendations in the coming year. The labours of the Committee on Co-operation in this Presidency have enabled us to take stock of the position and to remove defects where they occur and to effect improvements. It is my hope that a movement such as this which is of great potential benefit to the community will continue on a firm and sound basis.

"When in 1924 I first addressed my Legislative Council I alluded to the agreement which had been reached between my Government and the Mysore Darbar regarding the utilization of the surplus waters of the Cauvery; I refer to the Mettur project. That project is now well under way and it will, I hope, not be many years before the people in the districts concerned reap the benefits of this great work which was for so many years a vision of the future but is now becoming an established reality. We are also deeply interested in schemes of hydro-electric development. We have an officer specially appointed to work out such projects and for the present he is confining his attention to the Pykara, the Papanasam and Kolab schemes. It will take a little time yet before these schemes are thoroughly investigated

but a scheme subsidiary to that relating to the Pykara, namely, the Glen Morgan scheme, has already been sanctioned and we hope to have it finished at no distant date.

"You are now saying good-bye, Gentlemen, to the second Governor who has watched your deliberations since the Reformed Council came into operation and at the close of my period here I have seen the Statutory Commission, consisting of Members of the British Parliament, come out to India to enquire into the working of the reformed constitution. In this my farewell address to you I do not propose to deal with questions which have caused much feeling in this country. I cannot however omit to say that the reforms which gave such Councils as this their being were conceived in a spirit of generosity and with a desire to help this great land along a path of upright and progressive Government. The same spirit animates the British people now, and whatever the result of the Commission's deliberations may be, you may be certain that they and the British Parliament are approaching the subject with the utmost good-will and desire to assist you.

"Mr. President, before I conclude, as this is the last occasion on which I shall have the privilege of addressing this House, I desire with the indulgence of the Members to say a few words of a purely personal character.

"When I delivered my first speech as Governor to this Council in 1924 I expressed the belief that I should follow the proceedings of your Council with deep interest, the more so perhaps that I had had legislative experience in both Houses of Parliament in England. My prophecy has been fulfilled. In the crowded programme of a Governor's life there has been no item which has interested me more, or made a greater appeal to me, than the Parliamentary debates in this House. I have witnessed the growth of Parliamentary spirit and the creation and maintenance of those traditions which become the pride of older institutions. I see that distinctive atmosphere of dignity and solemnity which clings to the venerable fabrics of older Parliaments beginning to surround your Chamber. Indeed to me it is wonderful how in eight short years this Council has imbibed Parliamentary characteristics which are the outcome of years of Parliamentary Government elsewhere. One offspring of Parliamentary life has still to be developed; indeed, I am not yet sure that it has been born. I refer to what I described in the prorogation speech I made to this Council in 1926 as 'the institution of a real division of parties based upon effective political programme'. (Hear, hear.)

"If this House is to fulfil its purpose of introducing and passing legislative measures of importance dealing with the various needs of the Presidency and the people, it must, I suggest, substitute for the numerous political sections of the present day strong and united parties pledged each and severally to take office and implement their own programme. (Hear, hear.) Only by this means will the necessary legislation be introduced and the House have the means of carrying forward those measures which the Members and their electors desire. It is in the interests of these that I desire to see a rapid development of party Government.

"I am grateful, Mr. President, for the uniform kindness and courtesy I have received from the Presidents and Members of this House. As a Governor I have valued them and as a Parliamentarian I have appreciated the spirit in which they are offered. There are members in this House with

[His Excellency the Governor] [27th March 1929

whom I may not agree on many political questions, but that difference of opinion has not, I believe, impaired our personal and friendly relations which I have so much enjoyed. (Hear, hear.)

"It is with feelings of genuine sadness that I bid farewell to Madras. From all classes, creeds and races I have received in my public life loyal and generous support and in my private life genuine kindness and friendship, and I—and may I add Lady Goschen—leave the Presidency deeply in debt to its citizens.

"One sad feature of a Governor's term of office is the number of schemes in all phases of life, political, industrial, engineering, agricultural, medical, which he leaves begun but not completed when his time is over; he can only hope that the days of his retirement will be cheered by the news of their completion. There are those started by my Government in which I have taken deep interest and which I am optimistic enough to believe will reach fruition.

"In taking farewell to-day I can assure you, Mr. President and the Members of the Legislative Council, that I shall not cease in the future to follow with interest the proceedings of your Council and I shall ever pray that God may bestow His blessings on this Council and His guidance on its deliberations so that from them may emerge on the Statute Book measures which will contribute to the moral and material welfare and prosperity of the people and the unity, peace and happiness of the Presidency. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

"I declare the Council prorogued."

IV

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. Statement [a] regarding assistance alleged to have been given by the Chingleput District Board to the Self-Respect Conference (vide answers to question No. 1587 answered on 1st March 1929).

2. Statement [b] showing the Resolutions passed by the House Committee during the Second and Third Sessions of the Third Council and the action taken thereon.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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[a] Printed as Appendix X on page 1049 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix XI on pages 1050—1055 infra.